

**ATTACHMENT N: 2019 EAGLE AND EAGLE NEST AERIAL SURVEY LETTER
REPORT**



June 12, 2019

Mr. Gerry Mirabile
Manager - NECEC Permitting
Avangrid Networks, Inc.
Central Maine Power Company
83 Edison Drive, Augusta, ME 04336

RE: New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) Project
2019 Eagle and Eagle Nest Aerial Surveys

Dear Mr. Mirabile,

Bald and golden eagle and eagle nest aerial surveys for the NECEC Project were conducted on Monday, April 29, 2019 and Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The survey area included areas adjacent to the Project corridor from the Larrabee Road Substation in Lewiston to the Canada border at Beattie Twp., i.e., Segments 1, 2, and 3 of the Project. Because construction is not scheduled to occur on Segments 4 and 5 in 2020, no surveys were conducted in those areas. Surveys will be conducted prior to construction in those areas.

The aerial survey was conducted by Maine Helicopters, Inc. pilot David Meehan and observer James Wright of Central Maine Power Company (CMP). An invitation was extended to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) for staff presence and participation with the surveys, but MDIFW declined the opportunity to participate (personal communication between Charlie Todd, MDIFW Endangered & Threatened Species Coordinator and Mark Goodwin, Senior Environmental Scientist with Burns & McDonnell). MDIFW did provide 2018 nest point location data for bald eagle nest distributions for the State of Maine.

The *National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines* associated with the Bald and Golden Eagle Act (*Eagle Act*) recommends a seasonal restriction for loud and disruptive human related disturbances during the breeding season within a 660-foot area of concern, i.e., buffer, from a nest to avoid disturbing or taking eagles. The MDIFW recommends a seasonal restriction period between March 1 and August 31 based on the eagle nesting season in Maine. CMP has committed to avoiding construction activities within the 660-foot buffer of eagles nests during this time of year restriction.

For survey methodology, MDIFW recommended and the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) concurred, that CMP should apply a buffer of 1.1 miles to significant wetlands and waterbodies along the Project corridor and should survey all areas where the 660-foot setback from the Project corridor intersects with the buffer. CMP went a step further and visually inspected the corridor and a minimum 660-foot wide strip on both sides of the entire length of the corridor along Segments 1, 2, and 3.

No nests were observed within the corridor. Three nest sites were identified and mapped during the two day aerial survey effort, all outside the 660 foot setback but within the 1.1 mile buffer.



One nest was empty and the other two nests were occupied by a single bald eagle. According to the 2018 MDIFW nest point location data, the three nests observed by CMP may be the same three nests previously identified in these areas. The nests locations observed during CMP's survey include:

Observation Type	Town	Waterbody	Lat. (Northing)	Long. (Westing)
Bald Eagle in Nest	Livermore Falls	Androscoggin River	44° 22' 55"	70° 09' 05"
Empty Nest	Bingham	Kennebec River	44° 59' 09"	69° 52' 41"
Bald Eagle in Nest	West Forks	Moxie Pond	45° 20' 48"	69° 51' 46"

Based on CMP's aerial survey results and the 2018 MDIFW nest point location data, there are no known nest occurrences within 660 feet of the Project corridor from the Larrabee Road Substation in Lewiston to the Canada border. The attached maps for Segments 1, 2, and 3 provide an overview of eagles nests identified within 5 miles of the corridor. The closest eagle nests to the Project are located on Segment 3 in Livermore Falls approximately 1,000 feet from the edge of the corridor. A natural resource map showing the 660-foot buffer for these nest sites is included as an attachment.

If you have any questions regarding the eagle nest surveys or the attached maps please give me a call at (207) 808-4924 or email me at jmorin@burnsmcd.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Morin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and "M".

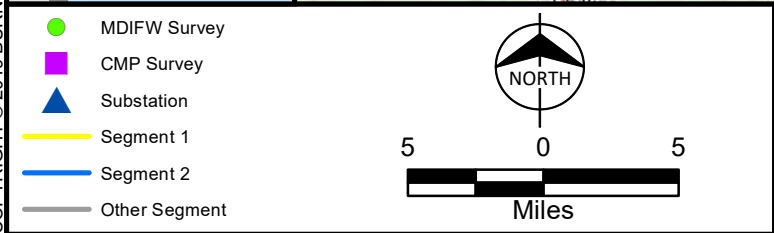
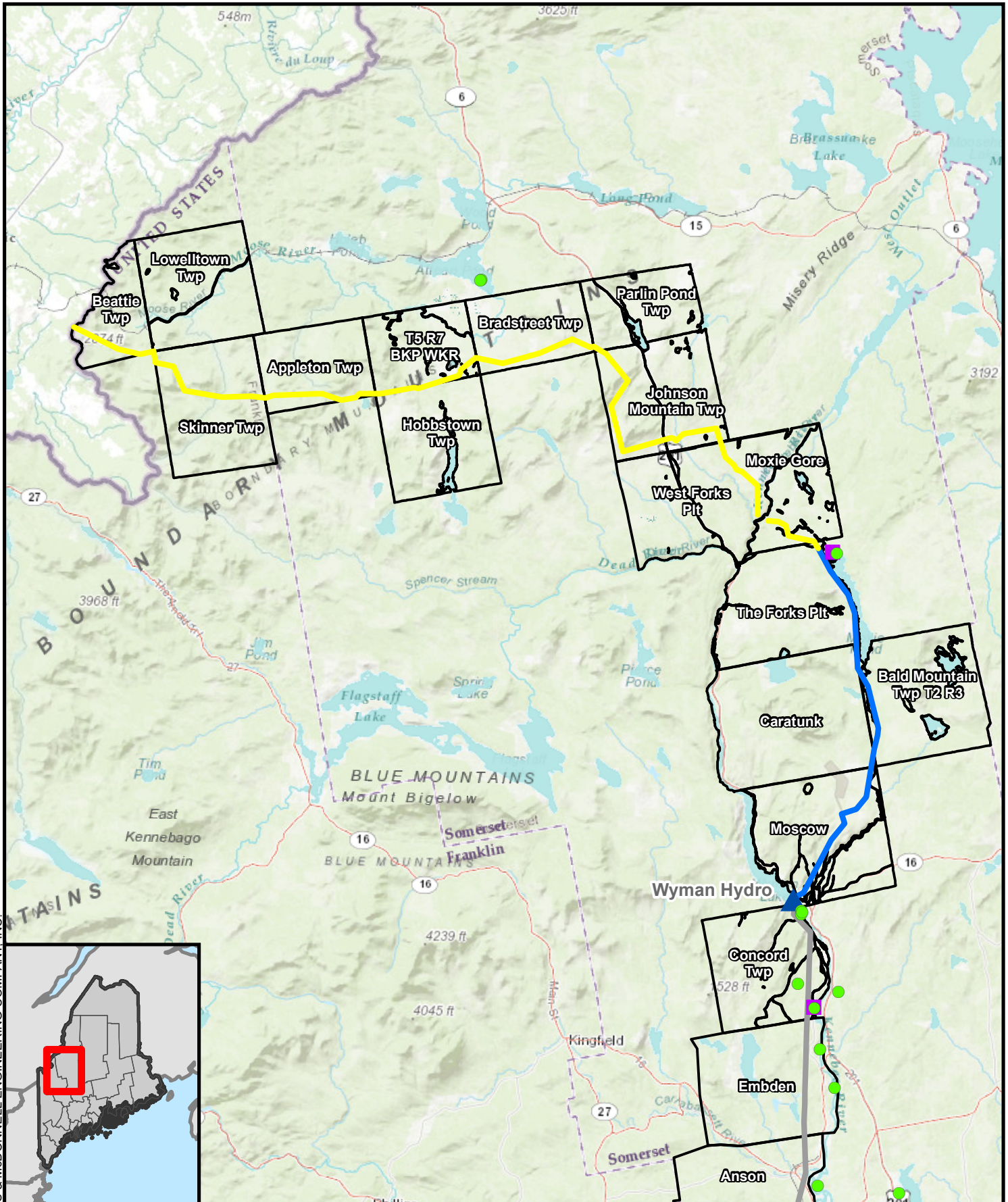
James P. Morin
Senior Environmental Scientist
Burns & McDonnell.


Attachments

cc: Charlie Todd, MDIFW
Erynn Call, MDIFW
Mark McCollough, USFWS
Jay Clement, USACE
Jim Wright/CMP
Mark Goodwin/Burns & McDonnell

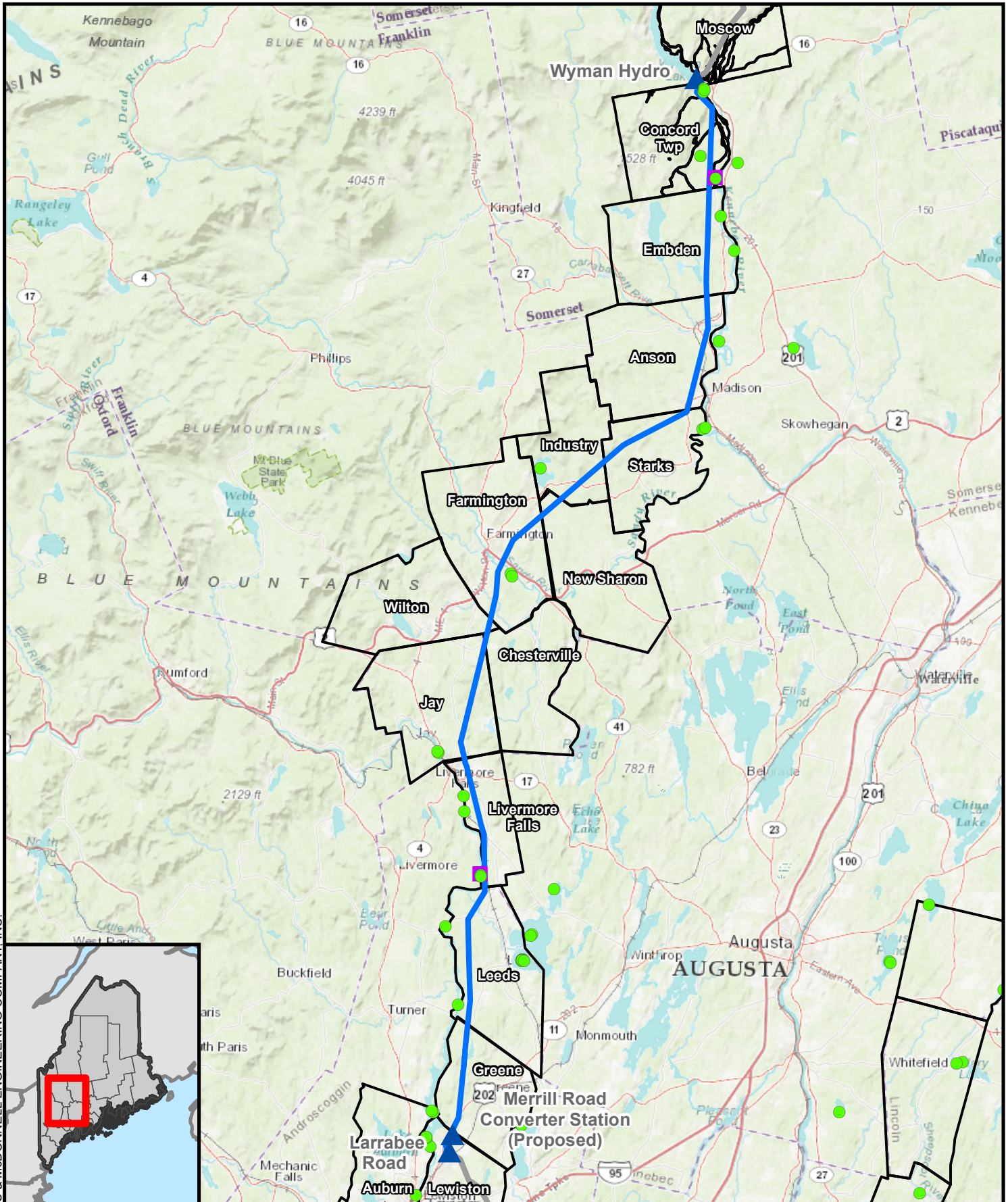
File:2019 NECEC Eagle and Eagle Nest Surveys

ATTACHMENT – 2019 NECEC EAGLE SURVEY MAPS

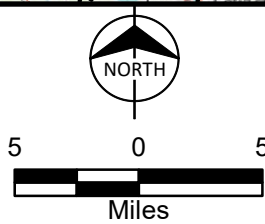




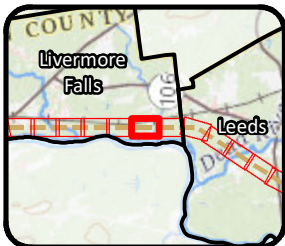
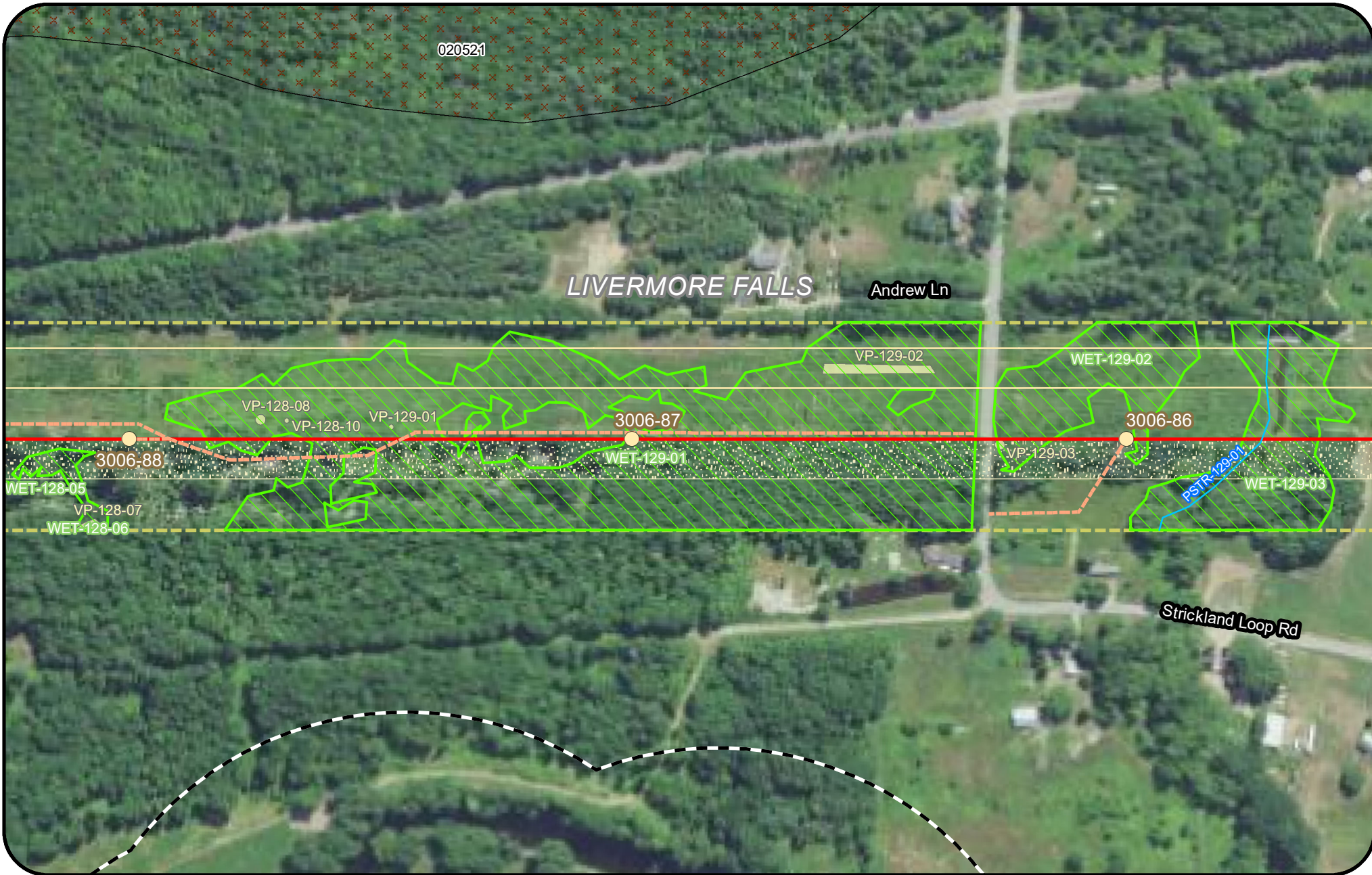
2019 Eagle Nest Locations
Segments 1 & 2
New England Clean Energy Connect



- MDIFW Survey
- CMP Survey
- ▲ Substation
- Segment 3
- Other Segment



2019 Eagle Nest Locations
Segment 3
New England Clean Energy Connect



- Legend**
- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Clearing Limits | Proposed Structure | Rare Plant (Point) | Tidal Waterfowl Wading Bird Habitat (TWWH) |
| CMP Ownership / Easement Extent | Existing Structure | SVP/ PSVP | Waterfowl Wading Habitat (IWWH) |
| Town Boundary | Existing Substation | USACE Vernal Pool | SVP and PSVP Buffer (250') |
| Project Centerline | Proposed Converter Station | Bald Eagle Nest | Substation Limit of Disturbance |
| Existing Transmission Line | Stream | 1/8 Mile Bald Eagle Habitat | |
| Proposed Access Road | Wetland | Deer Wintering Area (DWA) | |
| | Rare Plant (Polygon) | | |

**New England
Clean Energy
Connect**

Natural Resource Maps
Segment 3
250

Feet

**CENTRAL MAINE
POWER**